



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

EDDIE A. PEREZ
MAYOR

TELEPHONE: (860) 543-8500
FAX: (860) 722-6606

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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Billie C. Scruse, Press Secretary

STATEMENT FROM HARTFORD MAYOR EDDIE A. PEREZ

This morning I requested Hartford Police Chief Patrick Harnett increase police patrols in the North Hartford community to insure the safety of Hartford students going to and from school.

These efforts are due in large part to last Friday's early morning shootings involving two seventeen year old Weaver High School students. One of the victims was shot at the intersection of Clay and Nelson Street near the Nelton Court Housing Project and the second victim was shot at the intersection of Barbour and Westland Street. Neither victim sustained life- threatening injuries.

I, along with Chief Harnett am very concerned about young people and gun violence. Understanding the need to reach out to families directly, I am collaborating with the **Men of Color Initiative** and the **Hartford Community that Cares** organization to assist me with mobilizing **parents, clergy, and concerned citizens** about this type of violence in Hartford's neighborhoods. If you would like to volunteer, please call **209-8957**.

We intend to find those responsible for last week's shootings, however, we are also mindful that solely adding additional police officers to apprehend these individuals isn't the answer to stop the violence long term.

Lastly, if anyone has any information please contact the HPD's Major Crimes Division at **(860) 527-6300**, or the HPD's confidential tip hotline at **(860) 525-GUNS**.